

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics

**2005-2006 Chronic Wasting Disease Survey**

This year the survey focused on hunter-killed deer collected from butcher shops primarily serving all regions of the state and high deer density zones (Figure 1) for early deer seasons not previously included in random surveys. Between September 10 and April 28, 2006, retropharyngeal lymph nodes and brain stem samples were collected from 530 deer heads. Twelve of those deer were necropsy cases, 5 were confiscated illegal imports and 5 were road-kills. Butchers in Washington, Whitehouse Station, Clinton, Berlin, Howell, Mullica Hill and Norma submitted 507 deer. Hunters killed 505 of those deer in New Jersey with the exception of two shot in Maine and New York, respectively.

All of the 529 tested were negative for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). One Reindeer, which died spontaneously at a farm in Holland Twp., on April 28, 2006, in Hunterdon County, has been sampled and also tested negative. A buck deer (Wisconsin Tag # 108955) diagnosed with Chronic Wasting Disease, reported by the Wisconsin DNR, had been shot by a New Jersey resident. It was caped and the skull-cap cleaned at the Wisconsin check station in November 2005. The cape and skull-cap with antlers went to a taxidermist in Maryland. The skinned carcass went to a residence in Wall, NJ.

After butchering, the remains were disposed of in a landfill by a local waste hauler. The hunter submitted all the packaged deer meat for disposal in the NJDFW pathological incinerator.

Figure 1

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SURVEY

2005-2006 DEER SEASON SAMPLE (505)

DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS SAMPLED (175)

DMU SAMPLED

Deer Harvest by DMU

501-800

251-500

101-250

31-100

11-30

0-10

